



OPASTCO

21 Dupont Circle NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

July 28, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ex Parte Notice

**RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Monday, July 28, 2003, John Rose and Stuart Polikoff of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), Herbert Bivens of United Telephone Company and John Duda of Fairpoint Communications met with Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy and her senior legal advisor Matt Brill. We discussed OPASTCO's views on the Joint Board's proceeding concerning the methodology for calculating high-cost support in competitive study areas, the rules regarding support for second lines, and the process for designating eligible telecommunications carriers. We provided the Commissioner with a written ex parte presentation, which is attached.

In accordance with FCC rules, this letter is being filed electronically in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely,

Stuart Polikoff
Director of Government Relations
OPASTCO